(c) whether the MPEDA office will be shifted to Visakhapatnam to facilitate greater growth in marine product exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In 1993-94, 16108 Million tonnes valued at Rs. 454.11 crores were exported from Visakhapatnam Port.

(b) In Andhra Pradesh prawn farming is fast developing resulting in increased exports of Shrimp.

(c) A Regional Office of MPEDA is already functioning at Visakhapatnam.

Decentralising Operations of DGS&D

814. SHRI G. Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is to decentralise the operations of the Directorate General Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) By when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) In terms of the Government decision taken towards the end of 1991, on the basis of a policy review undertaken with regard to centralised purchase of stores and equipments required by various Central Government Ministries|Departments through the DGS&D, the work of procurement against adhoc indents has been transferred from the DGS&D and its Regional offices to various indenting Ministries|Departments alongwith officers and staff dealing with the work. However, DGS&D continues to handle the procurement of items of common use and in regular demand required by more than one Central Government Ministry|Department on Rate|Running Contract basis with the exception of POL products required by Ministry of Railways and Defence the procurament of which has been transferred to the two Ministries. Besides concluding Rate|Running contracts, DGS&D continues to render other services like inspection of stores, shipping and clearance of stores, etc. as before. There is no proposal at present under consideration of Government to further decentralise the functions of DGS&D.

Expanding equity base of MMTC and STC

815. SHRI G. Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for going to market to expand the equity base of MMTC and STC and, thereby reduce Government's stake to a minority holding; and

(b) if so, the reasons for Government ceding the majority and how MMTC and STC are expected to beef up their capital base with a fresh equity issue and what would be Governments share in the decanalised trade frame work?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Consequent upon the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to reorient and re-structure these Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. The matter is under govts. active consideration.

MPEDA's concetration on acquaculture

816. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MPED is only concentration on acquaculture and neglecting marine exports;